

## High School Math Textbook Adoption: Questions & Answers

### ***The Bellevue School District has begun the process to adopt a new high school mathematics textbook. Why?***

Our current high school mathematics textbooks, *Contemporary Mathematics in Context (Core Plus)*, were adopted ten years ago. The books have been well used, are falling apart, and are not the current updated versions. Of greater significance, the State has recently adopted new mathematics standards and our students will be required to pass end of course assessments in order to graduate from high school. In addition to advancing the district's mission to prepare our students for college and beyond, it is critical that the materials used in the Bellevue School District address these standards and prepare our students for these tests. With these goals in mind, our high school math teachers came together this fall to begin the math textbook adoption process.

### ***How does the textbook adoption process work?***

**October-November, 2008** -- High school math teachers met to identify stakeholders, values and critical considerations to guide the adoption process.

**January-February, 2009** -- A subcommittee of teachers representing each of the high schools and teacher-representatives from special education and ESL met to develop a scoring rubric for the purpose of selecting textbooks to pilot. Initially 19 potential programs were considered and reviewed against state standards. Eight programs reasonably aligned with these standards. The subcommittee reviewed these programs in depth and ranked them on criteria including the balance of procedural skills (skills, facts, and procedures), conceptual development (making sense of mathematics) and problem solving (using mathematics to reason, think, and apply mathematical knowledge); accessibility for all students; and student learning experiences that reflect current research on learning mathematics. The subcommittee recommended five programs for teachers of high school mathematics to review and score.

**March, 2009** -- All of the high school math teachers were given the opportunity to review and score the selected texts. Teachers came together to review the results and at that time recommended unanimously to pilot Holt *Algebra 1/Geometry/Algebra 2* and Key Curriculum Press *Discovering Algebra/Geometry/Advanced Algebra*.

**Spring, 2009 & Fall, 2009** -- Pilot lessons from these materials and collect assessment data and feedback from teachers, students and parents.

**Spring, 2010** -- Make a textbook adoption recommendation to the Instructional Materials Committee and the Board of Directors.

**Fall, 2010** -- New high school math textbooks will be in the hands of students.

### ***What has been the level of teacher participation and collaboration in the process?***

While instructional materials matter, it is our teachers that make math come alive for students. These professionals are spending hours meeting as a group of the whole and in smaller subcommittees to ensure that we select a textbook that serves our students well. Nearly every high and middle school math teacher whose students will be affected by the adoption has participated at some level and they are all excited about moving forward into the pilot phase of the process.

### ***What courses and grade levels will this textbook adoption affect?***

- Integrated Math Topics 1 [typically 8<sup>th</sup> grade] and Integrated Algebra/Geometry 1 [typically 9<sup>th</sup> grade]
- Honors Integrated Algebra/Geometry 2 [typically 9<sup>th</sup> grade]
- Honors Integrated Algebra/Trigonometry 3 [typically 10<sup>th</sup> grade]

### ***What was the state's math work?***

- July, 2008 --- 9-12 Math Standards adopted  
<http://www.k12.wa.us/CurriculumInstruct/Mathematics/RevisedStandards/FullWAK-highschool.pdf>
- January, 2009 --- 2008 High School Mathematics Core Comprehensive Materials Review & Recommendations Report-Initial Recommendations was released by the Office of the Superintendent of Instruction (OSPI)  
<http://www.k12.wa.us/CurriculumInstruct/pubdocs/PublishersNotices/OSPIMathHS-IMR-Rpt1-15-09.pdf>

### ***How was the state math work used in the process?***

We are planning to pilot two of the texts that were rated highest on the initial recommendation of the Office of the Superintendent of Instruction (OSPI) *2008 High School Mathematics Core Comprehensive Materials Review & Recommendations Report -- Initial Recommendations* (Updated January 15, 2009). These two texts are Holt's *Algebra 1-Geometry-Algebra 2 series* and Key Curriculum Press's *Discovering Algebra-Geometry-Advanced Algebra series*.

### ***How can parents stay informed and get involved?***

- **Attend Math Information Nights** – Beginning in the fall, we will be holding Math Information Nights. We will provide information about the text selection process, the programs we are considering and the progress so far.
- **Examine the materials** – As soon as the publishers can provide us with copies of the materials, we will make these available for parents to examine and submit comments.
- **Provide feedback on piloted materials** – As we pilot textbooks in the schools, both parents and their student will have the opportunity to respond to a survey that will tell us how well the resources provided in the materials support your student's math learning.
- **JOIN THE MATH ADOPTION COMMITTEE** – The math adoption committee will continue to meet next year as we work through the pilot and gather information to share with math teachers, parents, administrators and the Board of Directors. If you would like to be a part of this committee and help communicate information about the adoption process to parents, we encourage you to apply. The application will be available on this website in the near future.
- **Continue to check this web site** – Updated information as well as answers to frequently asked questions will be regularly posted.